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Landlords and Tenants

Amending legislation regarding the fixation of rent under the Madras Estates Land Act, 1908.

* 406 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government propose to bring in any legislation in view of the recent decision of the Full Bench of the Madras High Court regarding fixation of rent under the Madras Estates Land Act?

A.—The Government have not perused the full text of the High Court's judgment referred to. The suggestion of the M.L.C. will be considered.

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—" In view of the observations of the High Court, are the Government prepared to bring in new legislation at least in the January session? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" I have already stated that we have not seen the High Court's judgment; when we get it, the suggestion will be considered."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—" Are the Government prepared to apply for a copy at once and consider the matter? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" I do not think there is such urgency in the matter."

Settlement and commutation of rents in estates between 1910 *and* 1935.

* 407 *Q.*—Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the estates or parts of estates in the Presidency in which rents were settled between 1910 and 1935;

(*b*) the villages in estates in the Presidency in which rents were commuted between 1910 and 1935; and

(*c*) the estates or parts of estates in the Presidency in respect of which applications have been made for settlement of rent since 1930?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*c*) The Government have no information.

Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasayo:—" Will the Government call for the information? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—" No, Sir."

Land Revenue Administration

Enhancement of the water-rate in the Cauvery-irrigated area of the Namakkal taluk.

* 408 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government at the time of construction of the Mettur Dam contemplated the idea of getting an increment in the water-rate in the Cauvery-irrigated area of the Namakkal taluk of Salem district;

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(b) if answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative, what the amount is expected to be realized and at what rate per acre; and

(c) if answer to clause (a) be in the negative, how long after and why the Government entertained the idea of enhancing the water-rate?

A.—(a) *to* (c) The question of the effect of the Cauvery-Mettur Project on the old Cauvery channels in the Namakkal taluk, Salem district, was considered in 1928. The Engineers of the Government reported that with the completion of the Cauvery-Mettur Project these channels which were subject to fitful and uncertain supply (dependent on rainfall and the conditions in the river) would receive a steady and better supply. The rates of water-cess under the Cauvery channels in the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts had been raised, and the Government saw no reason why the channels in the Salem district should be exempted. They accordingly published draft rules for the levy of water-cess in the Salem district, and these rules were confirmed in G.O. No. 736, Revenue, dated 12th April 1934. The rates of water-cess are specified in this Government Order (which has been placed at the disposal of the Press). The increase of revenue in respect of the Cauvery channels in the Salem district was expected to be about Rs. 93,500.

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the question of steady supply of water to the channels in Salem district was considered at the time when the project was first thought of?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"Notice, Sir."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—"Are the Government really convinced that water-supply is more steady to these channels than what it was before the construction of the Mettur Dam?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—"That is the opinion of the Public Works officers."

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

Commerce

Proposals for restricting the use of foreign barks and extracts in tanning.

* 409 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have under consideration the question of laying some restraint on the foreign barks and extracts?

A.—No.

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—"May I know if the Hon. Gentleman is aware that the Chief Conservator of Forests has pointed out to the Government in his latest administration report that a large quantity of tanning bark is being imported in the province and as a result of